

wings and rose with, a spring, as if
inviting them
to follow. Oh ! if only they could have
followed
in its flight!

At last, after incredible efforts, a little before five o'clock, they all stood on the top of the cliff.

To south, to east, to west, nothing at all was to be seen—nothing but the vast expanse of ocean!

Northwards, the plateau extended over an area which could not be estimated, for its boundary crest could not be seen. Did it present a perpendicular wall on that side, fronting the sea? Would they have to go to the far end of it, to see the horizon of the sea in that direction?

Altogether, it was a disappointing sight for people who had hoped to set foot upon some fertile, verdant, wooded region. The same arid desolation reigned here as at Turtle Bay, which was perhaps less depressing, ii not less sterile, since mosses did gem it here and there, and there were plenty of sea-weeds on its sandy shore.

And when they turned towards the east and the west, they looked in vain for the outlines of a continent or island. Everything went to show that this was a lonely islet in the middle of these wastes.

of water.

Not a word was uttered by anyone
before this
dashing of their last hopes. These
ghastly solitudes
;ofiered no resottrees.. There was
nothing to do but
descend t&e ravine, get back to the
shore, go into